

traffic and speed management in construction work zones and the installation of barriers between construction work zones and traffic lanes for the safety of motorists and workers.

Mr. Speaker, roadway construction, maintenance and repair are readily apparent on our highways and in our neighborhoods. Construction work zone crashes killed 1,079 people in 2001. This is a 20 percent increase since 1995, not to mention the thousands of injuries that occur each year. These deaths and injuries will continue to escalate if we do not address this problem now. In this regard, H.R. 906 directs the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring workers whose duties place them on or in close proximity to a Federal-aid highway to wear high visibility garments.

To judge the effectiveness of these two safety programs, our bill requires a new biennial report to Congress without creating an unfunded mandate. States can use these funds to fulfill all data compilation, analysis, and reporting requirements. Finally, this bill maintains the flexibility States currently have to transfer funds from the two safety set-aside programs to the Interstate Maintenance, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, National Highway System, Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation and Recreational Trails programs.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important safety legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2003, I was unable to vote on the Greenwood Substitute to H.R. 534, the Human Cloning Act of 2003 (rollcall 37). Had I been present I would have voted "no." Similarly, I was not present to vote on the motion to recommit H.R. 534 (rollcall 38) but I would have voted "no." On final passage of H.R. 534, I was not present, but would have voted "yea" (rollcall vote 39).

#### HONORING SONJA MARIA MONTANO

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the achievements of Sonja Maria Montano, a resident of La Junta, Colorado, before this body of Congress and this nation.

Over the past year, Sonja has received wide acclaim and numerous awards from Poetry.com, which first published her work, as well as the International Society of Poetry and Symposiums. Sonja was one of only thirty poets in the world invited to present her work to the ISPS spring convention in 2002. Now, Sonja's work has earned one of thirty-five nominations for the society's grand prize, presented by Pulitzer Prize winning poet W.D. Snodgrass.

Sonja, a promising writer as a teenager, gave up opportunities in creative writing to stay close to home and eventually raise a family. She found her voice again at the age of thirty-one when she began writing poetry on a bet with her nine-year-old son. After years of apprehension and reservations about her writing, Sonja has decided to become a poet.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Sonja Maria Montano before this body of Congress and this nation for her courage and creativity in pursuing her dreams. I wish her every success in her new career.

#### DARIEN'S 2003 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

#### HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Father Gavin Quinn, the 2003 Citizen of the Year for Darien, Illinois.

The City of Darien lies within Illinois' 13th Congressional District. Because of residents like Father Quinn, Darien easily lives up to its motto—"a nice place to live."

If you happen to find yourself in Darien, there is a good chance that you will hear Father Quinn's name mentioned, not only by members of his church community, but also among the many other residents of Darien. He seeks out anyone who can use a helping hand or a friend. He is especially valued for his work with teenagers, single parents and the sick and dying. Regularly visiting hospitals, he works to lift the human spirit or offer a willing ear.

Father Gavin is best described by one of his fellow citizens, who said: "He is an extraordinary man who knows how to identify people in need and find a way of ministering to them. Father Gavin is a very compassionate man who reaches out to people of all faiths and in all walks of life. In short, I can think of no one who has made Darien a better place to live than Father Gavin Quinn."

I could not agree more. Father Quinn is the kind of person who transforms a city into a community. Congratulations to Father Gavin Quinn, Darien's 2003 Citizen of the Year.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

#### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, February 28th, we celebrated National Peace Corps Day, honoring the 168,000 Americans who have served as volunteers since the creation of the Peace Corps in 1961. These amazing men and women have served our nation in 136 countries. Peace Corps volunteers have made enormous contributions in the areas of agriculture, business development, education, health, and the environment, and in so doing have improved the lives of individuals and communities around the world. The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encour-

age progress and create opportunity in the developing world.

My own background as an educator and director at Outward Bound for twenty years taught me about the importance of national and community service. But I also have strong connections to the Peace Corps through my great state of Colorado and through my family. Colorado has one of the highest levels of recruitment of Peace Corps volunteers nationwide, and returned Peace Corps Volunteers in the 2nd Congressional District alone number over 500. Of course, the most important Peace Corps connection for me is my mother, who served as a volunteer in Nepal decades ago.

Because of these connections I have a special interest in advancing the ability of the Peace Corps to play an important role in these new times. I believe we must work to continue to promote world peace and friendship through the people-to-people approach of the Peace Corps. That's why I worked with my colleague Rep. SAM FARR in the last Congress to introduce legislation known as the Peace Corps Charter for the 21st Century Act. We have reintroduced the bill again in this Congress as H.R. 250.

The "Peace Corps Charter" strengthens the Peace Corps in a number of ways. It restates and further promotes its goals—to provide technical assistance to those in need around the world, to promote better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, and to bring the world home to America. It authorizes funding to allow for a Peace Corps expansion to 15,000 volunteers in five years. It reaffirms the independence of the Peace Corps. It authorizes a number of reports, such as one on host country security. It spells out a commitment to recruit and place Peace Corps volunteers in countries where they could help promote mutual understanding, particularly in areas with substantial Muslim populations. It establishes training programs for Peace Corps volunteers in the areas of education, prevention, and treatment of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. It streamlines and empowers the Peace Corps Advisory Council, with an added focus of making use of the expertise of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Finally, the bill creates a grant program to enable Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to use their experience and expertise to continue to carry out the goals of the Peace Corps through specific projects.

The Peace Corps is one of the most admired and successful initiatives ever put in place. I'm proud that the following young people from the 2nd Congressional District are presently serving in countries all over the world: Vanessa Adams, Ben Armitage, Shaun Cosgrove, Amy Ellerman, Thomas Fleming, Megan Haldy, Rebecca Knerl, Lydia Labelle, Lynell Lacey, Benjamin Liu, Erica Manteuffel, Kelly Oberg, Stephanie Ogden, Kelly O'Rourke, Johanna Patrick, Matthew Rice, Kathleen Shannon, Mary Simonson, and Robert Sweetman.

A pebble tossed into a still pond creates ripples that begin small and grow larger. Peace Corps volunteers have had this same effect on the people they have touched. The Peace Corps experience exemplifies how individuals can make a tremendous difference in the lives and perceptions of people in developing countries as well as people right here at home.

National Peace Corps Day honors the volunteers, past and present, and reaffirms our